Emma Castelli

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AP English Language and Composition

Ms. Schmidt

*Road Kill Compulsion*

Good afternoon. And thank you for joining me.

All of you in this room are my partners in education. Many of you are my friends. Many of you have worked at the desk next to me or have lockers near mine or hang out with me on the weekends, and now, every one of you has a valid reason to be afraid of me.

I want to say to each of you that I am deeply sorry and remorseful for my irresponsible and negligent behavior.

I am *(pause)* a murderer.

I know people want to understand how I could be so cruel and so hateful. People want to know how I could have committed crimes so brutal. And while I have always tried to be a caring person, I have slipped up. There are, however, a few misconceptions I want to clarify.

The truth is, I never meant to hurt anyone. As many of you know, a few months ago blood was found on the tires of my Jeep Wrangler. Thanksgiving morning my mother questioned me regarding the stains. Some people have speculated that somehow my mother hurt or attacked me with a golf club. This is not true. My mother never hit me on that Thanksgiving morning with a golf club. Emotions were running high, words were being thrown around, the truth came out. Two murders. Five murders. Ten murders. I believe the number now, I’m sorry to say, is at least 14 murders.

I have a problem.

I *(pause)* hit little rodents with my car.

It is a secret that I have kept hidden for a long time. It was painful not only for me, but for my family, for my friends. I have let you down. I have made you question who I am and how I could have acted as I did. I have inflicted pain so deep, both physically and emotionally.

But I am receiving help from the Kinder Road facility for “road-kill compulsion”. I have a long way to go but I have taken a step in the right direction.

I have also sought help in my religion, Roman Catholicism. Our Fourth Commandment states, “Thou shall not kill”. My priest has assured me that no amount of penance can compensate for what I have done. I am damned but in a way, I am grateful for some form of punishment. I hope my actions will deter further road ragers from making the same mistakes.

Some people though, have made accusations that I used performance enhancing tires to have more surface area on the road subsequently having better aim. This is completely and utterly false.

Nonetheless, I knew what I was doing was wrong. I was convinced I was above the standards for normal road etiquette. I thought being a young driver gave me the excuse to drive recklessly. I considered myself accomplished because I could hide my secret. I now know that I am not above the standards, that I am left with no excuse, and that my hidden secrets, kill.

I once heard from my first grade teacher-and I am a solid believer in it- that you treat people the way you want to be treated. I would not want to be run over by a maniac driver. I would not want to stand in the road scared for my life. I would not want someone to play hit or miss with the lives of my loved ones. I have acted irresponsibly and now, I must pay.

My final word to all of you today is thank you. Thank you for your love and support. Thank you for your understanding. Thank you for having every media station in the world cover my story for a solid three months. Thank you.

**Rhetorical Précis**

In Castelli’s *Road Kill Compulsion* speech, she mocks golf’s superstar Tiger Woods for his February 19, 2010 apology for his multiple affairs. This satirical piece employs the use of ethos, pathos, anaphora, anecdotes, a variety of sentence structure, tautology, asyndeton, puns, and alliteration. Castelli effectively uses satire to ridicule absurdity and rudimentary style of Mr. Wood’s speech and the global obsession with his story.

**Rhetorical Devices/Strategies**

-Ethos

-Pathos

-Anaphora

-Sentence Structure

-Anecdote

-Tautology

-Asyndeton

-Pun

-Alliteration

-Example/Illustration structure